

MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC
January 10, 2005

The Greenville City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, third floor of the Municipal Building, with Mayor Robert D. Parrott presiding. The meeting was called to order, followed by the invocation by Mayor Pro-Tem Ric Miller and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following were present.

Mayor Robert D. Parrott
Mayor Pro-Tem Ric Miller
Council Member Mildred A. Council
Council Member Ray Craft
Council Member Pat Dunn
Council Member Rose H. Glover
Council Member Chip Little
Wayne Bowers, City Manager
Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk
David A. Holec, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Bowers stated that a request was received by Ambre Gorsek to appear before the City Council.

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller to allow her to address the Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Council Member Glover and seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller to approve all the items under the consent agenda as listed below. Motion carried unanimously.

- (1) Minutes from the November 22, December 6, and December 9, 2004 City Council meetings and the December 13, 2004 joint meeting of the City Council and the Task Force on the Preservation of Neighborhoods and Housing
- (2) Ordinance installing new stop signs at various locations (Ordinance No. 05 -01)
- (3) Resolution accepting dedication of public rights-of-way and easements (Resolution No. 05 -01)
- (4) Consideration of an encroachment agreement with Daughtridge Oil Company to construct a shallow depth monitoring well on the northeast corner of the Dickinson Avenue/Moye Boulevard intersection (Contract No. 1381)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PRESENTATIONS

Community Appearance Commission

Mr. Larry Spell, Chairman of the Community Appearance Commission, informed the Council that the Commission was responsible for a landscaper education packet that went out to 180 landscapers in the Greenville area to educate them on the problems they have had with maintaining trees. The Community Appearance Commission is participating in the Environmental Advisory Commission's discussion group on the tree regulations trying to come up with ideas for a tree preservation ordinance. They wish to preserve existing trees before there is development. It has also been presenting three Appearance Awards each month. It has come up with a new award called the Biennial Award, which will be presented to eleven of the monthly Appearance Awards recipients. The Community Appearance Commission was involved in the City's Spring Clean-Up. It gave out five new sections of Adopt-A-Street. Nine Neighborhood Grant awards were given. He expressed appreciation to the staff that assists the Commission.

Human Relations Council

Ms. Cassandra Daniels, staff liaison to the Human Relations Council, reported that unlawful discrimination and unfair treatment remains a serious problem in Greenville. A decrease in the number of complaints received is not an indication that injustice is not prevalent. During the past year, the Council worked effectively with other city departments and outside organizations/agencies to help alleviate injustice. However, the disturbing trend of public denial of the extent and impact of discrimination and restricted resources for enforcement and reduction in the availability of effective remedies for victims of discrimination has continued.

In 2004, the Human Relations office responded to a total of 356 complaints and/or requests for assistance. There were 114 tenant/landlord complaints, 18 housing discrimination/unfair treatment complaints, 4 employment complaints, 122 requests from families needing assistance with their utilities, 44 requests from families needing assistance with rental payments or assistance for finding adequate housing, and 23 families were in need of food/clothing.

Annual events sponsored by the Council include the Best-Irons Humanitarian Awards Banquet to be held on February 26, 2005 at the Hilton, the Young Citizen of the Year Award, Choices/Options (students from D. H. Conley High School) and Ladies of Distinction (students from E. B. Aycock), the Bill of Rights/Universal Declaration of Human Rights Reading Day, and the Fair Housing seminar. The Council does not sponsor an event for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday; however, it supports the scheduled events that are sponsored by other organizations. The Council is working diligently to establish a Youth Council for the City of Greenville. The youth of Greenville are an integral part of this community and should be represented in City government. The youth will be given an opportunity to experience municipal government as well as develop leadership skills.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ACTION OF THE PITT COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING
IN SEEKING PLACEMENT BY THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE SENIOR CENTER FUNDING ON A NOVEMBER 2005 BOND REFERENDUM -
ADOPTED

Dr. Charles Byrd, Director of the Pitt County Council on Aging, explained the need for a Senior Center to accommodate the increases in the number of senior citizens in the community. There are currently 17,000 seniors, and the number is soon to be 25,000. Property on County Home Road is being looked at for the project. To date, \$1.2 million has been raised. The Pitt County Council on Aging has committed to raise \$1.5 million, and a match of \$1.5 million is needed. The desperate need for such a Center will begin in 2008. The Pitt County Council on Aging believes that a bond for \$1.5 million will pass. He asked the City Council to endorse the action of the Pitt County Council on Aging in seeking placement of the Senior Center funding on a November 2005 bond referendum.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Craft to adopt the resolution endorsing the action of the Pitt County Council on Aging in seeking placement by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners of the Senior Center Funding on a November 2005 Bond Referendum. Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution No. 05-02)

PRESENTATION BY THE FERGUSON GROUP

Report on FY 05 accomplishments

Mr. Roger Gwinn, President of the Ferguson Group, gave an update on the FY 05 agenda, informing the Council that two of the five requested earmarks were received—the Green Mill Run Stream Restoration in the amount of \$60,000 and the Greenways Expansion and Improvement in the amount of \$1.5 million. Also, included in the House-passed version of an earlier reauthorization measure was \$12 million for the Tenth Street Connector. The Ferguson Group is optimistic about the funding prospects for this project in the reauthorization bill next year and recommends that the project remain on the FY 06 federal agenda as a transportation priority.

Consideration of a contract for consulting services

City Manager Bowers informed the Council that the contract with the Ferguson Group is up for renewal under the same terms as the previous year.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Glover to approve renewal of the contract with the Ferguson Group for consulting services. Motion carried unanimously. (Contract No. 1215B)

Discussion of FY 06 federal agenda

Mr. Gwinn recommended an FY 06 federal agenda to include the following items.

Tenth Street Connector--\$5 million for planning and right of way acquisition; secure funding for completion of planning, design and construction

Police Department Wireless Infrastructure--\$300,000 for wireless infrastructure to support in-vehicle computerized information systems

West Greenville and Uptown Neighborhood Revitalization--\$1 million to remove blight and construct affordable housing

Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements--\$1 million to make improvements to the stormwater collection system

Railroad Switching Yard Improvements--\$3 million for construction of railroad switching improvements at Arlington Boulevard/Fourteenth Street area; secure funding for completion of railroad switching improvements at Arlington Boulevard/Fourteenth Street area

Other items that the City Council may wish to consider include:

Transportation—Working with the City and the State to obtain a designation for Tenth Street as a federally eligible road under the National Highway System; working with the City's Congressional delegation to ensure funding of the SW Bypass through the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Drug Interdiction—Monitoring, reporting on, and supporting all legislative developments and opportunities for local governments to obtain funding for drug interdiction and drug treatment.

Downtown Revitalization—Seeking additional funding opportunities to support the City's efforts to revitalize downtown Greenville including, but not limited to, a Renewal Community designation and Economic Development Administration programs.

FEMA/Homeland Security—Monitoring and supporting all opportunities for local governments and first responders to enhance emergency response services (i.e., seeking and monitoring opportunities for the City's Urban Search and Rescue Team).

Waterfront Development—Monitoring and reporting on legislative developments in the Water Resources and Development Act; supporting a new authorization within the Water Resources and Development Act for the Army Corps of Engineers to assist local communities in developing waterfront property.

Water Resources Development—Working with the Corps of Engineers to initiate work on a study to assess bank stabilization needs along the South Tar River.

Brownfields—Working with the City's congressional delegation to generate support for the City's brownfields application, attaining brownfields designations.

Open Space—Monitoring and reporting on additional opportunities for federal funding to support the City's acquisition of open space or easements for greenways, parks, outdoor recreation, wetlands or wildlife habitat.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Craft, to accept the FY 06 agenda as presented by Mr. Gwinn. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE JOINT CITY/GREENVILLE UTILITIES COMMISSION COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

After brief discussion, motion was made by Council Member Council and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller for Council Members Glover and Dunn to serve as the Council representatives on the Joint City/Greenville Utilities Commission Compensation Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDRESS BY CITIZEN

Ms. Ambre Gorsek requested that the Council make available the property on NC 33 beside of River Hills Subdivision as a park. She presented petitions containing 850 signatures that made the same request. (Document No. 05-01)

REVIEW OF JANUARY 13, 2005 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The Council did a cursory review of the items on the January 13, 2005 City Council Meeting agenda and reviewed the appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Upon learning from the City Manager that a request for continuance had been received for the Taft rezoning, motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Glover to continue the Taft rezoning item from January 13 to February 10. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Little asked that the Rose High School football champions be asked to attend a Council meeting to be recognized. Mayor Parrott stated that they would be asked to attend the February meeting.

Council Member Glover wished everyone a happy new year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller informed the Council of a new civic club in Greenville—a Kiwanis Club for adult citizens living with disabilities. A lot of the members are participants in Special Olympics. He thanked Boyd Lee for allowing them to meet at the Teen Center. This Kiwanis Club will be receiving its charter on February 3.

Council Member Council stated that she had a Black Elected Municipal Officials meeting on Saturday. She also stated that she received a scholarship to attend the NLC Institute for Youth Education, learning how to create sustainable communities and strengthen families.

Council Member Dunn wished everyone a happy 2005. She stated that she would miss the Public Information Officer, Deborah Clark, whose last day of employment with the City is Friday. She appreciates the good work that Ms. Clark has done.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bowers informed the Council that he will talk to them about the Council Planning Session at the Thursday night meeting. He will also ask if they wish to cancel the January 24 meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Little to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, CMC
City Clerk